SANDRIDGE WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 18th July 2025

The attendance winners for this week are Year 2 with 99.5%



Number of late in each class this week:

No lates	**Reception, Year 4, Year 6**
1 late	**Year 1**
2 lates	**Year 3, Year 5**
3 lates	**Year 2**



‘Head’lines (Miss Lisa Roberts, Headteacher)

The end of another academic year is (almost) here, once again.

My ‘head’lines, next Tuesday will be shorter and focus on Year 6 and Mrs Hunt and Mr Robbins who leave us then.

Thank you to all the staff who continue to work beyond hard every single day so that our children make the very best progress they can and achieve their potential. They always go the extra mile to ensure children experience a range of clubs, extra-curricular activities and events. Thank you for always smiling, having a great sense of humour and for your ongoing commitment to the children and families of Sandridge.

Thank you to the Governing Body – a volunteer role that is hard work (and thankless much of the time)! You are a great team, highly skilled and provide both the challenge and support that is needed of governors. Your time and commitment to our school is hugely appreciated. A special thank you to Joy Archer and Sheenagh McKillop who have been governors for a long time and who are both stepping down this summer. Thank you for your care, support and very many contributions to the school over the last seven years. You will be greatly missed.

Thank you to all of our volunteers – we are so lucky to have each and every one of you. You make a real difference to both the staff and children. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Boxer who have volunteered at Sandridge for the last 14 years – both in the classroom and on the Governing Body. They are stepping down from volunteering this year to enjoy their retirement fully (though no doubt keeping very busy)!

Thank you to FOSS – for your energy, enthusiasm and great sense of fun! We appreciate everything you organise and do to raise much-needed funds for our little school. To Tom and Rhia, who get married tomorrow; we wish you all the best for a beautiful wedding day – we look forward to seeing a photo or two!

Lastly, thank you to our children – for always keeping us on our toes and making us smile. Whether it’s learning something new, performing your socks off on sports day or just making a funny comment or telling us a story…you are why we get out of bed every morning and enjoy coming to work ☺

Have a great weekend!

Message from the Vice Chair of Governors

Dear Families of Sandridge School,

It's that time of year again — it seems to come round so quickly — and we are already beginning to prepare for a much-needed summer break.

We'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on what a hugely successful year it has been at Sandridge. The incredible Ofsted result and report earlier this year was a true testament to the hard work and care that goes into making our school so special, and it captured perfectly what we all know and love about Sandridge.

Another highlight of this year was the opening of the school bus — a fantastic new addition to the school, providing a wonderful space for reading and learning. Several governors were delighted to attend the bus opening event, and it was so lovely to see so many families and friends come along to celebrate this milestone. The library bus has already made such a positive difference to the school, and it was heart-warming to witness the excitement and pride from everyone who came to see it.

We also want to celebrate the absolutely outstanding SATs results achieved by our Year 6 pupils this year. The data clearly shows how incredibly well the children have done, and we are so proud of them all. These results are a testament to the hard work, dedication and skill of the staff — and, of course, the determination and resilience of the children themselves. Well done to each and every one of you — an incredible achievement all round!

On behalf of the whole governing body, a very big thank you to all the staff at Sandridge School for their energy, commitment and care throughout this year.

We'd also like to say a very special thank you to our wonderful Headteacher, Lis Roberts, who does such a marvellous job of leading the school and making all of these successes possible. Her vision, dedication and unwavering support for pupils, staff and families are at the heart of everything Sandridge achieves — thank you, Lis!

We would also like to extend our thanks to our dedicated Grants Governor, Toni Neil, who this year has successfully raised grants totalling an amazing £7,719.48. This funding has been used to enhance our school with bus furnishings, books, the creation of a sensory room and new ukuleles — what a fantastic help towards our school's resources. In addition, Toni has sourced an estimated £3,000 worth of good-quality second-hand books for the library bus — an incredible achievement that benefits all of our pupils.

On a slightly sadder note, we say goodbye to two longstanding governors — Joy Archer, our current Chair of Governors, and Sheenagh McKillop. Both have been dedicated members of the governing body for the past seven years, and they leave behind a lasting impact on the school. We thank them warmly for everything they've given to Sandridge and wish them all the very best for their next adventures.

We would also like to remind everyone that governors play an important role in supporting the school — whether you are a parent, grandparent, family friend or a local resident, your skills and enthusiasm could make a real difference. We are now looking to fill vacancies on the governing board, so if you're interested or would like to know more, please do come and speak to the school office — we'd love to hear from you.

Finally, on the note of moving on to new adventures, we would like to say goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year 6 pupils and their families. We hope you've enjoyed your time at Sandridge and feel ready and excited for the next stage of your journey. Judging by your fantastic data and achievements this year, we are confident you'll all do brilliantly — well done and good luck!
We wish everyone in the school community a fabulous, restful summer break — and we look forward to seeing you all in September for another exciting year ahead.

With best wishes,

Michelle Poole, Vice Chair of Governors

The afPE Quality Mark – the association for Physical Education

Well, CONGRATULATIONS to us and, more importantly, a huge well done to Miss Everall who was informed, yesterday, that we have been awarded the 'afPE Quality Mark' with distinction! This is a real reflection of the hard work and commitment Miss Everall has demonstrated over the last few years as our PE & Sports Leader.

The validator highlighted the following reasons for the award:

- Highly committed senior leadership team who have ensured succession planning is in place to continuously develop Physical Education
- Reflective and highly supportive PE subject leader (Miss Everall) who has ensured teachers are well-supported to deliver high quality teaching and learning
- Good policy and practice for health and safety, assessment and inclusion
- PESSPA (Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity) at the centre of school life

We have received our certificate and the logo will soon appear on our letter-headed paper. Along with being listed on the afPE webpage, the Association will submit a report to the Department for Education (DfE) which will include details of our success.

Please note; no other primary or secondary school in St Albans has this award. What an achievement!

Talent Show

On Wednesday evening, Sandridge School hosted our annual KS2 Talent Show. There were a variety of acts ranging from breakdancing to singing to karate. The chosen judges gave constructive, confident comments to each individual act. The audience's participation with every act boosted the performers' morale, enabling them to take it to the next level. Although everyone was sensational and winner-worthy, the award holders were well deserved. The winners of this year's Talent Show were Ralph in Year 3 in third place (breakdancing), Cherry in Year 6 in second place (piano playing) and the Six Squad (Sadie, Orla, Eve, Isla, Roxy and Lizzy in Year 5) who came first.

The three winning acts each received Amazon vouchers.

Well done to everyone who auditioned, took part and supported the event.

by Mollie-Mae and Reagan

Miss Roberts says "Well done to Mollie-Mae and Reagan for doing a brilliant job of hosting and holding it all together!"









Year 6

In RE we have learnt about Islam and the five pillars: Shahada, Salah, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj.

In groups of six we made human pillars using art supplies. Everyone did a different pillar. After, on a piece of flipchart paper we wrote the meaning of our chosen pillar. We really enjoyed this activity to end our RE topic.

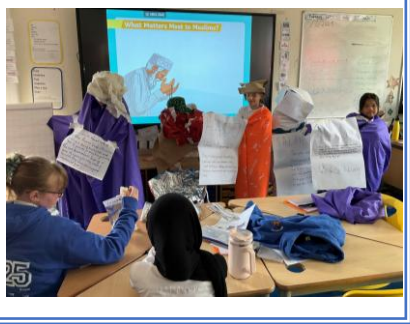
by Mollie-Mae and Tuba









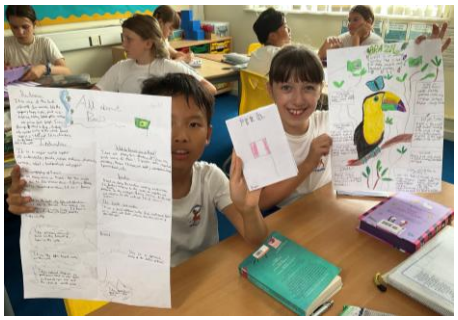


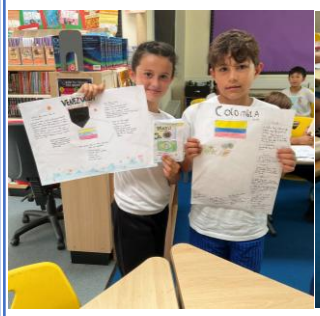
Year 5

To complete our geography learning this term, we each researched a different country from South America and made information booklets and posters to demonstrate our understanding. As well as using the key features of an information text, we also included facts about both physical and human geography in our chosen countries.









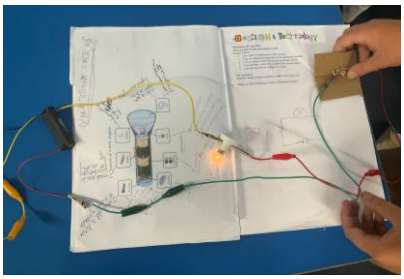


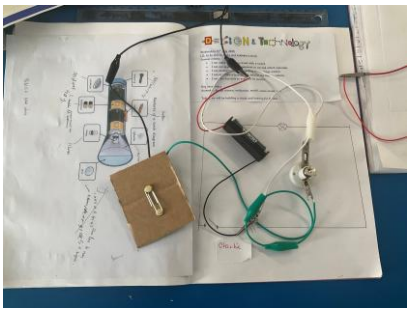




Year 4

Our current science and DT units have linked together so, this week, we made torches! Firstly, we had a recap lesson about circuits and created series circuits with a homemade switch. We then learnt about effective torch design by evaluating torches and understanding the purpose of the different parts. After that, we created our own designs considering the success criteria, target audience and purpose. Then, on Wednesday, we made our own torches. Making the circuits for them was relatively easy, but getting the circuit to still work inside the torch was incredibly difficult! Some of us had to adapt our torch designs in order for them to work.











Year 3

Last week we put our sewing skills to the test and created felt cushions. First, we designed the front into our art books before cutting out the shapes. We then sewed the patterns and added extras (such as buttons or beads) using the stitches we had learnt. After that, we stitched the two pieces together using the pre-made holes around the edge of the fabric. It took some of us a while to get finished but the final products were amazing and we proudly displayed them in the gallery last week.













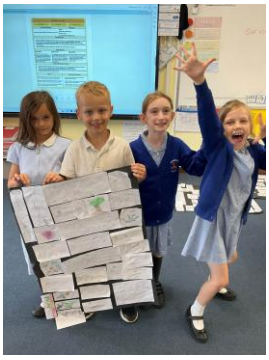




Year 2

In our science unit, animals and their habitats, we have been learning about different types of habitats. Over the past few weeks, we have been learning about world habitats and have focussed on; deserts, polar, rainforest, ocean and grasslands. We were put into groups to research a habitat and create a group poster about it. Then we have the chance to present some of our information to the class.
Desert 'We learnt that fennec foxes live in the desert. They have big ears that help them, to keep cooler.'
Polar 'We learnt that animals that live in polar regions often have blubber under their fur to keep them warm.'
Rainforest 'We learnt that a leaf gecko is one of the animals that depends on leaves to survive because they camouflage on them.'
Ocean 'We learnt that there are over 21,000 species of fish in the ocean. We also learnt that when jelly fish eat you can see their food inside them.'
Grasslands 'There are lots of animals in grasslands such as anteaters that use their long tongues to eat ants out of their nests.'






Year 1

In computing, we had to design our own Space Race. We first had to choose and sketch our background and then colour in our rockets. We chose the starting and ending position for the rockets. We made the decision of who was going to win. For each rocket, we then wrote out the algorithm. We then got the Chromebooks and logged onto Scratch Jr where we selected our background and chose the sprite rocket and changed the colour to match our design. We then used our algorithm to write the code for each rocket.







Reception

This week we have been really enjoying information books, PowerPoints and stories about sea creatures.

We have especially enjoyed acting out an old favourite ‘The Rainbow Fish’.

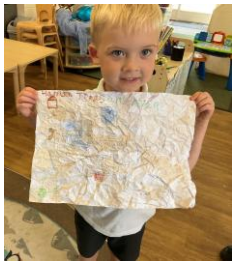
We also used it to base some dances on e.g. an octopus dance in pairs.






We enjoyed learning about how male seahorses carry eggs they hatch out from their tummies in ‘Mr Seahorse’ by Eric Carle.

We made aquariums, ice cream and pirate maps.









We have also brought in some of our special items one more time to share and talk about to the rest of the class.






The following children celebrate their birthdays this week, next week and over the summer holidays:

Ann Teresa, Jack, Archie, Lacie, Charlie, Imogen, Elsa, Elliott, Kuzey, Sophie, Seth, Lenny, Pip, Emily, Georgia, Demi, Harry J, Ellie, Mae, Emma, Theo

Phenomenal Phonics awards

Year R: Eliot
Year 1: Ewan

Star Writer awards

Year 2: Lacie
Year 3: Sophie
Year 4: Henry
Year 5: Alice
Year 6: Tuba

This week's Class Cup of Kindness is awarded to: Year 3

REPS Certificates (Respect, Equality, Perseverance, Self-belief)

Amazing us with his dance performance at the Sandpit Theatre via Tapestry! Oscar W

Showing respect and equality in RE and resilience in computing: Sophie K

Showing self-belief and perseverance when creating and following your planned algorithm to create a quiz in Scratch Jr this week: Taliyah

Beautiful singing, confident xylophone playing and great self-belief! Disen

Always being respectful, polite and kind in the classroom: Hadley

Persevering and showing self-belief in her learning: Emily

Persevering in all aspects of school & showing great self-belief to perform in the talent show! Adriana

Certificates of Merit

Being a fantastic game player this week: Harrison

Working incredibly hard this week in computing: Ted

Watching our art demonstration carefully and following each step: Hunter

Beautiful collage flower picture this week: Reggie

Working really hard in geography when matching jobs to their places and equipment: Zainab

Successful work in his English and maths learning this week: Soulayman

Working hard in lessons and always putting his hand up to give a valuable contribution: Jayden

Sport Certificates

Lovely seaside and octopus dancing this week! Avraaj

Always having such a fantastic attitude to our PE lessons: Matty

Showing such excellent batting and fielding skills in rounders: Lenny

Working well with your partner in golf: Evie

A huge improvement in both PE units this term: Stephanie

Demonstrating good technique in our golf lesson this week: Malak

Showing enthusiasm towards our golf unit and designing an amazing golf hole! Kai